



## REPRESENTATIVE DAN ROACH

### 31ST DISTRICT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

#### Committees:

Financial Institutions and Insurance  
(Ranking Republican)  
Capital Budget  
Finance

**Phone:** (253) 863-0462 (Sumner)

**Legislative Toll-Free Hotline:**  
1-800-562-6000

**TDD Hotline for the Hearing  
Impaired:**  
1-800-635-9993

#### About your representative

Currently serving his third term, Rep. Dan Roach, R-Bonney Lake, was elected to the House of Representatives in 2001. If you would like to learn more about Rep. Roach, visit his website at:  
<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/roach.htm>

# 2006 SESSION REVIEW SUCSESSES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS

## REP. DAN ROACH 31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

May 2006

Dear friends and neighbors,

The 2006 legislative session ended March 8, one day earlier than its scheduled 60 days in Olympia, a rarity for the Legislature. While that might have been a good thing in other years, the early adjournment this year resulted in unfinished business. Had we been in session even one hour longer, the Legislature could have sent to the governor important legislation I introduced to protect grieving families from funeral protesters.

We had our share of successes and disappointments throughout the session. Successes included adopting stronger laws against sex offenders, providing options and help for students taking the WASL, additional penalties against drunk drivers, eliminating the state park day-use fee, and providing home heating assistance for low-income and elderly citizens.

Unfortunately, the Legislature failed to adopt stronger laws against identity theft; the majority party rejected our attempts to repeal the death tax; there was no progress on protecting land owners from government's taking of property; and we ended up with a supplemental operating budget that exceeded the voter-approved spending limit and pushed government spending to record levels.

This newsletter provides a glimpse of these and other issues from the 2006 session. Please contact my office if you have questions, comments or suggestions about the legislative session and state government.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dan Roach



## 31ST DISTRICT OFFICE REOPENED IN SUMNER

I feel it is important to be accessible to the citizens I serve. That's why I continue to maintain a district office in Sumner. The office is staffed by my assistant, Jonathan Haines.

I work for you throughout the year, not just when the Legislature is in session. So I encourage you to continue communicating with me throughout the year as well. If you have a question, comment, idea or concern about state government, or if you are having difficulties dealing with a state agency, please contact my office. Office hours are listed below. Please make sure to call ahead to schedule an appointment.

#### DISTRICT OFFICE:

5914 Graham Ave., Sumner, WA 98390  
Phone: (253) 863-0462

#### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday  
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Please call ahead for an appointment!

# 2006 SESSION REVIEW

## REP. DAN ROACH

### PARTIAL SUCCESS ON 'AIM' LEGISLATION

After holding hearings last fall in the district on identity theft, I made the fight against that crime one of my top priorities coming into the 2006 session. I introduced legislation against ID theft that was later tied together with measures to fight auto theft and methamphetamine. The package was called "AIM," which stands for Auto theft, Identity theft, and Meth. Our proposal took AIM not only at meth, but the two other crimes often committed by meth users to support their drug trade.

The legislation I proposed would have allowed consumers who fear imminent identity theft to "freeze" their credit – prohibiting financing from being issued in their name and restricting access to credit histories. The measure would also have created a financial fraud network to allow financial institutions to share information with law enforcement. It also would have set up assistance for senior citizens and disabled people who have become victims of identity theft. Another measure I introduced, HB 2840, would have increased penalties on ID theft and allow criminals convicted of the crime to have their assets seized and forfeited.

Unfortunately, these bills died and no progress was made to crack down on auto theft. Instead, we made some progress in the fight against meth with an attorney general's bill. Senate Bill 6239 increases sentences, enhances authority and support for local law enforcement to inspect and shut

down meth labs, and provides funding for treatment for persons addicted to meth. This is a small start to get at a much bigger problem. That's why I will continue to fight for the entire AIM package.



**REP. DAN ROACH SPEAKS ON THE HOUSE FLOOR ABOUT THE NEED TO PROTECT VICTIMS FROM IDENTITY THEFT.**



### SENATE DEMOCRATS BREAK PROMISE TO CONSIDER 'REST IN PEACE' BILL

When you make a promise, you should keep it, especially if it is to the men and women who have served and died defending their country. That's what we told Senate Democrat leaders after they reneged on their promise to bring House Bill 3293 to a vote on the Senate floor.

The "Rest in Peace" bill is a measure I prime-sponsored after being contacted by Chuck Lawrence, a Vietnam veteran from Bonney Lake. Chuck told me about a hate group that shows up and protests at military funerals. He personally witnessed protests at military funerals in Renton and Kirkland. Another happened in Yakima. The protesters get in the face of grieving families and praise the bombs that killed their loved ones.

The bill I introduced would have required protesters to stay 500 feet away from a funeral or funeral procession. It gained unanimous approval in the House. Just hours before the Legislature closed the 2006 session, Senate Republicans received a signed agreement from majority Democrats in the Senate. Democrat leaders agreed to bring HB 3293 to the Senate floor for a vote in exchange for a pension bill they also wanted considered.

In the last hour of the session, the majority party brought up their pension bill as agreed – and it passed. But then to the surprise of us all, they rapidly pushed forward to adjourn the 2006 session WITHOUT holding to their promise of bringing the Rest in Peace bill to the floor. Although they have said they will make the bill one of the first they pass next session, veterans are very upset that the promise to them was broken this year.



### SHARED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PLAN AT RISK

The city of Buckley needs a new wastewater treatment plant. So does Rainier School. So it made sense to combine these projects into one and save money for taxpayers. Rep. Jan Shabro and I offered an amendment to the capital budget to provide \$3.9 million for this shared project. Unfortunately, some lawmakers questioned whether to put more money into Rainier School. Our amendment was defeated. This puts the White River at risk for pollution and puts in doubt the future of this project. As a member of the House Capital Budget Committee, funding for this project remains my top concern.

# SUCCESSSES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS

## 31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

### RECORD SPENDING OPERATING BUDGET SETS STATE ON TRACK FOR FUTURE TAX INCREASES

With a budget surplus of \$1.6 billion, I had hoped that the Legislature could have resisted the temptation to spend all of that money. In fact, we sought to repeal the tax increases adopted in 2005 – especially the onerous death tax which imposed an unfair penalty on families who have lost their loved ones. Unfortunately, the majority party rejected our attempts to repeal the taxes.

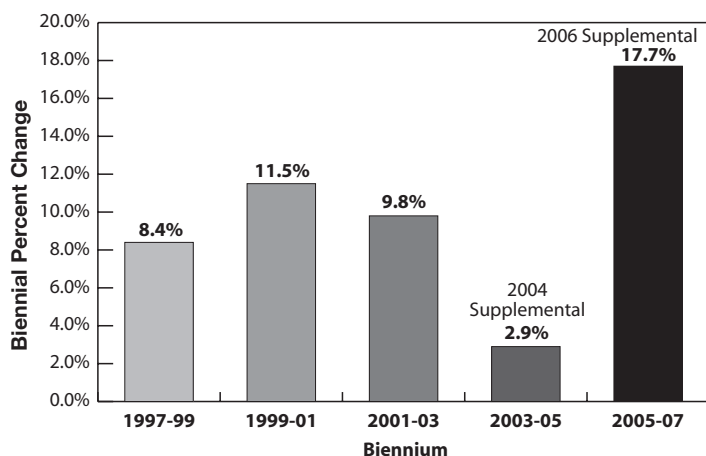
We also sought to create a constitutional protected rainy day fund where we could place a sizable amount of the surplus to protect taxpayers from future downturns in the economy. That proposal was rejected. In addition, we sought to restore the voter-approved spending and tax limits and place them in the state constitution so they would not be easily changed or suspended. That too was rejected.



Instead, a plan to spend \$1.3 billion of the surplus was adopted, leaving only \$216 million in savings. With a 17.7 percent boost in spending, adding 816 employees to the state payroll, it was the largest spending increase in the history of the state. I would have preferred that we return to the Priorities of Government budgeting approach, rather than the needless, wasteful spending contained in this plan.

Most disturbing is that this budget is not sustainable. The new spending placed in this budget means that in future years when we do not have revenue surpluses, the Legislature will be forced to deeply slash programs or significantly raise taxes. It's not what I consider a responsible way to budget for the taxpayers of our state, therefore I voted no.

### HISTORY OF STATE SPENDING NEAR GENERAL FUND-STATE



### OTHER ISSUES:

#### • State parks day-use fee eliminated

I voted no three years ago against the \$5 a-day state park fee when it was adopted. Our state parks belong to all citizens. Attendance, however, has declined by more than 20 percent since the day-use fee was enacted. This year, the Legislature repealed that fee, giving families better access to our state parks.

#### • Home heating assistance provided

The price of oil, natural gas and other heating fuels has skyrocketed in recent months. Going into the winter months, many people on fixed and low incomes were worried about their heating bills.

In September, I joined with fellow lawmakers to ask the governor to consider additional home heating assistance for elderly and low-income citizens. Our voices were heard. The home heating assistance bill, which provides \$7.6 million in energy assistance, was the first bill passed by the Legislature this year and signed into law.

### FIGHT CONTINUES

#### FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Fortunately, we passed legislation, which was signed into law, extending health savings accounts to state employees. Unfortunately, no meaningful health care reform was adopted to address the state's 600,000 uninsured.

### STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

I believe that measuring student achievement is essential so we can compete in a global economy and provide a quality education to all students. However, I think the WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) is flawed in many ways. I support alternative measures of student achievement like SAT/ACT scores, student collections of evidence, or some reliance on grade point average for those students who fall short of "proficient" on the WASL test.

I also believe the WASL needs to be critically reviewed by independent experts. I supported House Bill 2429 to evaluate some of the concerns which many have expressed about the WASL. Unfortunately the bill did not pass.



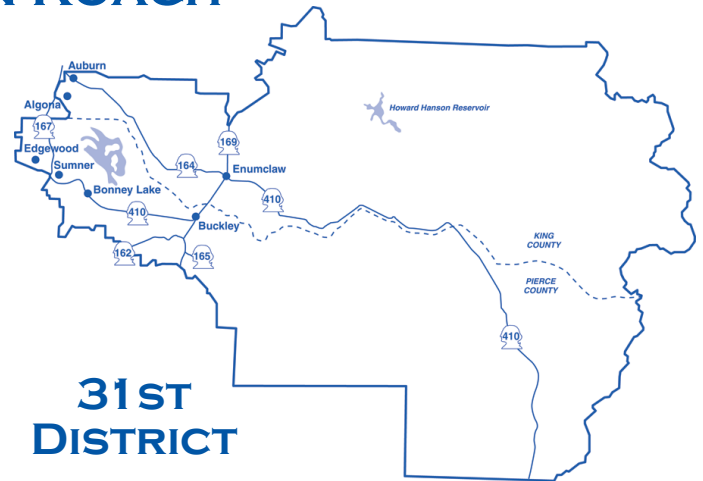


# 2006 SESSION REVIEW

## REP. DAN ROACH

### LOCAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS ADDRESSED

More than \$157 million in transportation projects have been allocated to the 31st District. Projects include, but are not limited to: State Routes 167, 410, 161 and 169. I've included a full project list on my web site at: <http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/roach/projectlist.pdf> or you may contact my office for further details.



### 31ST DISTRICT

### SEX OFFENDER LAWS STRENGTHENED

This year, we pushed for tougher laws against sex offenders. Nearly 50 bills were introduced, including House Bill 2819, legislation calling for increased penalties that I prime-sponsored. Several measures were signed into law. Most notable was a bill that sends sex offenders who molest children and vulnerable adults to prison for 25 years and provides tougher post-release supervision.

### LAND-USE PROTECTION BILLS REBUFFED

Last year, I introduced four different bills to protect private property rights. Unfortunately, none of them received a hearing. In response to the Legislature's failure to act, the Washington Farm Bureau is offering an initiative for the November ballot in which property owners would be entitled to waivers or compensation for land-use restrictions imposed any time after 1996.

### I'M HERE TO HELP!

I'm here to serve as well as represent you. Should you ever have questions, comments, suggestions or ideas about legislation or state government, let me know.

#### OLYMPIA ADDRESS

Rep. Dan Roach

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

#### DISTRICT OFFICE

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#### WEB SITE:

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